

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 ABF-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01

L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 /057 W

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R 151122Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3367

INFO US MISSION GENEVA 1988

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 25791

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, UNHCR, TH

SUBJ: CONCERN OVER UNHCR FUNDING

1. CHARGE MET SEPTEMBER 15 WITH MFA ACTING DIRGEN OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION DEPARTMENT, ASA BOONYAPRATUANG, AT LATTER'S REQUEST. ASA EXPRESSED RTG'S CONCERN THAT THERE IS A \$2.9 MILLION SHORTFALL IN THE CY 76 \$12.4 MILLION BUDGET FOR UNHCR'S INDOCHINESE REFUGEES PROGRAM IN THAILAND, AT A TIME WHEN THERE ARE MANY MORE REFUGEES HERE THAN UNHCR HAD ORIGINALLY FORESEEN. HE NOTED RTG UNDERSTOOD THAT USG HAD NOT YET COMPLETED FULFILLING ITS PLEDGE OF FUNDS TO UNHCR FOR THIS PURPOSE AND URGED THAT WE DO SO, FAILING WHICH THERE WAS SIMPLY NOT GOING TO BE ENOUGH MONEY TO SUPPORT THE REFUGEES UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR.

2. CHARGE SAID HE SYMPATHIZED WITH RTG CONCERN AND PROMISED TO COMMUNICATE IT TO WASHINGTON. HE OBSERVED THAT UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE BERTA HAD ALREADY INFORMED HIM OF LOCAL OPERATION'S PRECARIOUS FINANCIAL STATUS AND SAID WE UNDERSTAND SUBJECT IS UNDER CONSIDERATION IN DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN GENEVA AND WASHINGTON.

3. EMBASSY BELIEVES UNHCR IS HAVING VERY REAL PROBLEMS MEETING ITS OBLIGATIONS HERE AND TRUSTS THAT, IF THE STATUS OF OUR FUNDING IS AS RTG AND UNHCR HAVE REPORTED, MATTER WILL BE RESOLVED SHORTLY. WE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED OF STATUS
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OF OUR CONTRIBUTION. IN ADDITION, WE HOPE THAT USG WILL BE IN

POSITION TO CONTRIBUTE TO NEXT YEAR'S PROGRAM, AS WELL.
BURKE

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